

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master

Ask yourself, are you a Past Master by name alone or are you a Past Master of action! If you are a Past Master of action, do you have what it takes to be a Grand Lodge Officer? Don't be a procrastinator; act now nominations close on April 1, 2015.

Grand Lodge is seeking qualified, motivated and active Past Masters who have the skills necessary to become a leader at the Grand Lodge level. Are you that person? If so, the right time to plan to be part of Grand Lodge is now.

Deputy Grand Master: This year we will be electing a new Deputy Grand Master. Any brother who has served as an *elected* member of the Board of General Purposes is entitled to have his name published as a candidate for the office of Deputy Grand Master if he signifies his intention in writing to the Grand Secretary on or before Wednesday, April 1, 2015. Brethren, the election of the Deputy Grand Master is one of the most important elections taking place this year. Take it seriously. Know and learn everything you can about each candidate. It is not a popularity contest. It's not about electing a "classy guy". It's about leadership. You are electing a leader. Think about it, the person you will be electing as your Deputy Grand Master will undoubtedly be your Grand Master on July 20, 2017.

Elections to the Board of General Purposes: The Board of General Purposes is the administrative and executive body of Grand Lodge (Section 134). The following are members of the Board: The Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Master, District Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplain, Grand Registrar, Grand Director of Ceremonies, 14 Past Masters elected to the Board (7 each year – 2 year term), 14 Past Masters are appointed by the Grand Master (7 each year – 2 year term) and no more than 7 Past Masters are appointed by the Grand Master (confirmed by Grand Lodge) as Honorary Members and they serve a 3 year term.

Nominations for a Grand Lodge Officer: As we prepare for our Annual Communications of Grand Lodge on the third Wednesday of July and the Thursday following (July 15, 16, 2015), many of our Past Masters are considering being a candidate for the office of the Board of General Purposes, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden and Grand Registrar. If that is your intention, then your nomination application must be received by the Grand Secretary on or before Wednesday, April 1, 2015 (Sections 36 to 41).

No brother shall be eligible for an office in Grand Lodge unless he has attained the rank of Past Master. Candidates, other than GM, DGM and DDGMs, are nominated, in writing on a prescribed form, by any member of Grand Lodge (Past or Present Grand Lodge Officer, the Masters, Past Masters and Wardens). The Nomination Form, which will have an attached passport-size colour photo of the candidate, must be signed by the nominator and the candidate.

Grand Wardens: The office of Grand Warden is an elective Grand Lodge Office for a term of one year. Aspirants may be nominated by any member of Grand Lodge and submit that nomination to the Grand Secretary. The candidate receiving the majority of votes will be declared elected by the Grand Master. The Grand Wardens, whenever directed, shall attend the Grand Master and act as his Wardens

Further, the Grand Wardens have an important role in the Ceremony of Constituting and Consecrating a Lodge, dedicating or re-dedicating a Corner Stone, Ceremonies of Amalgamation and Extinguishing the Lodges of a Lodge. More importantly, the Grand Wardens are expected to know their Work, such as, Opening and Closing in all Three Degrees, calling off Lodge, open and close a Board of Installed Masters and Grand Lodge, and the Ritual Work of a Warden. I assure you, when you attend a Lodge and sit in the chair, the Lodge Wardens will be watching you. Therefore, you will need to know the Mechanics of the Work and be proficient in our Ritual.

Grand Registrar: The nomination and the election process of the Grand Registrar is basically the same as the Grand Wardens, with this additional qualification. The applicant must comply with Section 50(b) and be in possession of a certificate of completion of the Past Masters Course offered by the College of Freemasonry. The theory being, relates to the duties of the Grand Registrar found in section 114: "The Grand Registrar may, at the pleasure and direction of the Grand Master, take charge of any district for which there is not a District Deputy Grand Master." Therefore the Grand Registrar must be familiar with the duties and responsibilities of a District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Registrar will also visit and report on the activities of the Heritage Lodge.

Not every Past Master can be elected or appointed to the Board. But I say with experience, the names listed on the Grand Lodge Nomination List, is an excellent resource for our Committee Chairmen to select committee members to sit on their respective committees. We know these brethren want to serve Grand Lodge.

Past Masters, if you have the energy, time and qualities, consider being part of your Grand Lodge team. Remember, your nomination form must be received by April 1, 2015.

My appeal to you at this time is to learn from those leaders who have gone before and making our Masonry of today the emblem of truth, honour, the symbol of justice and doing the right thing for the right reasons. Brethren, as we move on, let's be the Mason you want your Grand Lodge to represent.

Donald A. Campbell
Grand Master

From the Deputy Grand Master

Well Brethren, I would like to tell you that spring will be here in a couple of weeks but that would agree with another being who predicted an early spring and I don't wish to be on the same line of thinking as a groundhog. So, spring is coming, I just don't know when.

The next number of months will be full of Official visits, Grand Master Receptions and many other Masonic events of interest. Our Grand Master will be very busy with activities that require his presence and participation

The Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and I recently attended the Conference of Grand Masters of North America and the Conference of Grand Secretary's in Vancouver. Our Grand Master was the Vice-chairman of the Conference so I represented our Grand Lodge as the voting delegate from Ontario. This provided me an opportunity to meet with both Grand Masters as well as Deputy Grand Masters from across North America. It was very interesting to meet our peers who had some exciting activities in their respective jurisdictions and to discuss issues of common interest concerning moving Freemasonry forward. Most jurisdictions have many of the same challenges that we have here in Ontario however there are many variations of how situations are evaluated and approached to achieve maximum success. It should also be noted that the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario is one of the largest Grand Lodges in North America and we are held in high esteem by many other jurisdictions.

I also want to mention that last week the Board of General Purposes held a three day retreat to assess the various opportunities our Grand Lodge will be dealing with over the future years. I must say the participation and open discussions that occurred were honest and fruitful. It is our desire that many of the opinions will serve us well into the future of our Grand Lodge. Many suggestions will be refined and presented at our Grand Lodge Communication in July. I also want to tell you the sincere manner, of the board members in attendance, was inspiring and built pride for Freemasonry and more particularly our Grand Lodge.

Brethren as many of us have reported we held a very successful workshop in St Thomas last fall under the guidance of Workshops and Seminars committee. As announced we are now embarking on another similar event this time in Eastern Ontario in beautiful downtown Campbellford on May 9th. There will be three concurrent seminars that should be of interest to many Masons and we encourage those districts within a short driving distance to consider having representation. These activities are only successful when we attend and absorb the information that might be of benefit to the future wellbeing of our respective lodges.

The workshops in Campbellford will be as follows:

CORNERSTONE PROJECT ----- R.W. Bro. Jamie Ireland

LONG RANGE PLANNING -----R.W. Bro. Bill Bowick

MENTORSHIP-----R.W. Bro. Leonard Feldt

Brethren the time is fast approaching to our Grand Lodge Communication in July. Please remember that there will be a considerable amount of activity in Toronto with the Pan Am Games taking place at the same time. The Grand Secretary sent out notice early that you should book your rooms at the FAIRMONT ROYAL YORK as soon as possible. I also remind you there will not be rooms available in other hotels at a reasonable price so if you haven't booked your rooms by now I urge to book as soon as possible. We want as many masons to attend as possible to experience the many aspects of FREEMASONRY at our GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

Progressing forward together will ensure our fraternity will be an enjoyable and lifelong way of living, that will enhance not only your life but will comfort and support to those around you.

John C. Green
Deputy Grand Master